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the pacer

Independent voice of the University of Tennessee at Martin

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College Dems protest Tea Party

First Tea Party National
Convention held in Nashville
over weekend

Randy Cavin
News Editor

Members of the UTM College Democrats were in Nashville Saturday joining other demonstrators and protesters of the first Tea Party National Convention being held at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center.

According to *The Tennessean*, 600 people bought tickets to the two-day convention and 1,100 were sold for the closing speech by former Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin.

Heather Mummert, president of the UTM College Democrats, said because of scheduling conflicts only two other UTM students were able to attend the protest with her. Trenton Woodley, a sophomore Political Science major, and Polasayo Salami, a sophomore Family and Consumer Sciences major, joined 50-75 other protesters outside the convention.

"The protesters were there for two purposes: to support a congressional candidate and to protest the Tea Party Convention."

"The main issue was to show support for a congressional



A group formed outside of the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center to protest the first Tea party National Convention Saturday Feb. 6. Among the group was Trenton Woodley, Polasayo Salami and Heather Mummert, all UTM students. Mummert is the president of the UTM College Democrats. (Photo Credit/Kathy Chambers)

candidate in the 7th District, Greg Rabadous, who is running against incumbent congresswoman, fellow Tea Party supporter and 'birther' conspiracy theorist, Marsha Blackburn. The other was just the idea of the Tea Party and their right-wing radicalism," Mummert said.

The Tennessean also reported that national media were allowed into the convention and to cover Palin's appearance,

but local media were barred from the convention and Palin's appearance.

"I think that this says a lot. I think it shows us that they did not want everyone to be a part of their movement, but rather, only wanted to appeal to those that could afford over a thousand dollars per person for tickets, hotel and travel expenses. They made it out of reach to the bulk of their supporters, and continued to

do so by not allowing local media. This only hurt their cause further," Mummert said.

There were concerns that the cost of attending the Tea Party Convention. Tickets to the event cost \$549, which included the banquet that featured Palin as guest speaker. The banquet, by itself, cost \$349 to attend. The convention was criticized for being a for-profit event.

The Tennessean also reported

two high-profile speakers who were scheduled to speak at the convention pulled out over concerns that their participating in the event would violate campaign finance rules. Rep. Marsha Blackburn, R-Brentwood, and Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., canceled their appearances because it could have put them in a difficult position.

See Protest page 4

New Madrid fault line fizzled out?

Sarah Rowland
Pacer Writer

The devastation in Haiti after the magnitude 7.0 earthquake that struck the small country recently has UTM students wondering whether a similar large quake could strike West Tennessee.

UTM sits about 26 miles from the New Madrid fault line; however, no major earthquakes have been recorded in the New Madrid Seismic Zone since 1811-12. New research from Northwestern University in Illinois suggests that the New Madrid zone is shutting down and thus no major earthquakes are expected to occur in the area.

"The hundreds of small tremors that still rumble through the region annually, they say, appear to be nothing more than aftershocks from the massive quakes of 1811-12," according to a recent report in the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*.

When asked his views about Northwestern University's conclusions, Dr. Stan Dunagan, assistant professor of Geology at UTM, said, "We have to realize that this is one study and it was relatively short term and it's one group's interpretations. They might be right, but then other people still have to go in and look at that data, perform the science again, and see if they come up with the same interpretations."

"I think it's useful ... but at the same time, it's not going to convince me to cancel my earthquake insurance policy."

Math tops list of most failed at UTM

The top 10 classes most failed from Fall 2008 through Summer 2009

Subject	Course	Percent Failed
1. Math	251	30
2. Chemistry	341	27
3. General Studies	211	27
4. Math	130	23
5. Math	140	21
6. Sociology	202	21
7. English	100	21
8. Math	185	21
9. Math	210	20
10. History	121	19

Erica Davis
Pacer Writer

Before signing up for classes each semester, students always want to know what classes they should not take and who the teachers are who teach them.

Part of that activity has its roots in fear - students don't want to be stuck with a teacher they perceive as tough when they already know the subject matter is going to be tough.

For many, math is one of the most difficult disciplines to handle, and - as has been the case for years - math courses hold five of the 10 spots for most-failed classes at UTM.

"Mathematics is difficult for many people as it requires a type of abstraction, but it is essential to our modern society," said Dr. Chris Caldwell, who teaches Math 210.

Dr. Heidi Huse, who sometimes teaches English 100, No. 7 on the most-failed list, said, "Attendance is a problem because it is a four-hour class and the fourth hour is supposed to be in the Writing Center. Students often don't go because they do not know what they are supposed to do. In fact, they are supposed to be getting help with their papers and since they are not it is

reflected in their work."

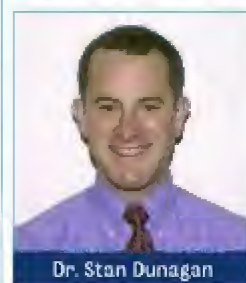
No. 10 on the list is History 121, taught by Dr. Richard Garlitz, among others. His explanation for this course being on the failed list centers on the depth of the course content.

"There's a tremendous amount of material to learn and a lot of students have little or no exposure to this much history before college," Garlitz said.

The most-failed list was compiled from information provided by Academic Records and the Office of Information Technology Services. The results are taken from all classes offered from the Fall 2008 through the Summer 2009 semesters.

There were at least 100 total grades of A, B, C, D, F, or P. The results are from grades recorded at the end of each semester, meaning no withdrawals, audits, incompletes, etc., affect the Top 10. Only 113 courses met the criteria for the correct results, meaning level zero classes were excluded from the results because they are not considered "college courses." In addition, all percentages were rounded to whole numbers before sorting for a more reliable average.

**"Mathematics is
difficult ... but it
is essential to our
modern society."**
-Dr. Chris Caldwell



Dr. Stan Dunagan

Dunagan said the chance for a larger magnitude earthquake to hit in the New Madrid zone, like the earthquakes of 1811-12, is 7 to 10 percent during the next 50 years. For a smaller magnitude 6 earthquake, the chance is 25 to 40 percent, he said.

"So there's a pretty good chance that most students here at Martin, if they stay in West Tennessee or this area, they will have the opportunity to experience a strong earthquake," he said.

Dustin Tucker, a UTM senior and Geology major, said, "In my personal opinion, I do not believe that the New Madrid Seismic Zone is totally shut down yet. A big earthquake is definitely a possibility."

see Quake page 4

WEDNESDAY WEATHER

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Tomorrow, more clouds than sun.
Highs in the mid 30s and lows in the low 20s. Friday, partly cloudy.
Highs in the upper 30s and lows in the low 20s.

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Viewpoints

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Editorial: Whose holiday is Valentine's Day?

Valentine's Day, in case you hadn't heard (lol), is this Sunday.

Big deal, says The Pacer staff.

In our office, women and men on staff recently debated the worthiness of this holiday, with a couple of the guys calling it a "girl" holiday intended only to boost flower and chocolate sales. The women, of course, said men ought to have some romance and gifts, too. Then another guy said if men showed their sentimental side, women would consider them weak. The female staff members disagreed, but they were outnumbered at the time.

Meanwhile, everywhere you look you see hearts and flowers and things that make you say "Awwwww," though not publicly if you're a guy. Plus, guys know that the relationship rule book makes it imperative to buy in – literally – to the big V consumer conspiracy. No sweets for the sweet? Then no sweet, no well, maybe we shouldn't put that in print.

Women, especially ones who think for themselves, don't see what the big deal is about giving gifts to guys on a sentimental holiday. It's not like the guy has to break down in tearful gratitude over a bag of chocolate candy, a free meal, or whatever else is offered. Heck, the guy doesn't even have to take out the trash anymore, so why go all mushy over some small token of affection?

We know the stereotypes that abound with this holiday, and we think most of them are pretty silly. We believe you should come up with your own V-Day traditions.

How about a potted plant – something that might stay alive – rather than flowers? Do you really want to give someone something that soon dies as proof of your undying love?

How about sharing that chocolate? Get enough for both of you, or date someone who's willing to spring for half the chocolate and have a chocolate and champagne party. The fun might never end (wink).

Get in the car and go somewhere different, where you can watch a sunset and have an in-car picnic instead of hanging out with half the town at a restaurant. Anyone can go out to eat. Not everyone is intelligent or creative enough to come up with a unique nature picnic.

And if you have no significant other, who cares about this stupid holiday, anyway?

Buy yourself some chocolate and you don't have to share it. Good times.

Oh, one more thing – do be sure to tell all those you love that you love them. Even cynics have hearts.

Editorial cartoonist: Charles Brubaker



And you think you've got it bad?

Editor's note: Casey Curlin is spending this semester in Washington D.C., where she is completing an internship at The Washington Times and Georgetown University.



CASEY CURLIN
EXILED EXECUTIVE
EDITOR

They were calling it "Snowmageddon." Personally, I thought it was just coming from a bunch of Capitol Hill yuppies who didn't want to get their Ugg boots wet (they are not actually designed to be worn in snow, by the way).

But I suppose you could call it a "Snowmageddon." I woke

up Saturday morning to at least 20 inches of snow outside. It piled on top of everything. It finally stopped falling Saturday afternoon and I took a walk around the residential streets.

The streets were plowed but only down to about four inches. A few cars drove on top of the packed snow early on, mostly cleanup and rescue vehicles. Later in the day cars pulling sleds meandered down the slick streets.

Few sidewalks were shoveled and the ones that were had snow piles on either side at least four feet deep. By Sunday most of the sidewalks were packed down by foot traffic to about four inches of snow, difficult but passable. Cars lining the streets had disappeared, replaced with perfectly oval mounds of white snow.

I passed a man digging his car out from under the two feet

of snow that had landed on top of it and the four feet of snow that snow plows had pushed against it. He had made good use of the waist deep pile as a cup holder/cooler. There were several beer cans stuck throughout the mound.

People were sledding and skiing down the city streets and someone had built a quite respectable snowman in front of the Capitol lawn. I watched a group of guys playing football and a television news crew interviewing kids building snowmen.

The cold was bearable but as I walked across the middle of The Mall, between the Capitol and Washington Monument, I soon discovered that walking in snow above your knees in ankle boots won't keep you very dry.

Aside from a few bars and a crumbly overpriced grocery

nothing was open. Every checkout line was at least 35 people long in a store half the size of E.W. James.

While the metro was a blessing in that the underground rails did not close for the snow and I did not have to worry about driving on the dangerous roads, they were slow coming and I waited about forty minutes for a train.

However, the television stations did make a much larger deal out of the experience than it actually was.

"200,000 blackouts!" they shouted over the air continuously. "Airports closed! It's the storm of the century!"

I found it funny, and slightly ironic, that "storm of the century" was referring to the fluffy snowflakes falling silently to the ground, but nonetheless this resulted in half a dozen frantic phone calls from family

members to my parents who relayed the concerns to me.

"Does she have groceries?"

"Does she have power?"

"What's she going to do if she loses power?"

Thankfully, my mom acknowledged that I'm 22 years old and could take care of myself, but I told her she could tell the next frantic family member that I did have power and groceries, and was fully prepared to collect sticks and burn them in the living room if I lost power. I also gave her a much more dramatic image of the street scene, people freezing to death in mid step, and if they tripped they would be immediately buried by falling snow, but I don't think she told them that part.

Calculate your dateability

Single on Valentine's Day? Take the quiz and turn your prospects around



JUSTIN HUNT
VIEWPOINTS EDITOR

Valentine's Day offers couples a chance to be romantic, and singles to cry about being alone.

If you are single, you probably just need a little nudge to get out on the dating scene. We all know Valentine's Day doesn't water down romance or commercialize love, so to help you, I've formulated a little quiz to take to see your dating potential.

This is a highly accurate quiz.

1. Your last date with someone ended with ...

- A. A friendly kiss.
- B. An inappropriate comment followed by cuss words and a broken nose.
- C. An accidental murder.

2. You first saw the person you have asked out ...

- A. In one of your classes.
- B. While Facebook stalking.
- C. With binoculars from your bedroom window.

3. How would you respond if your date had a medical emergency while on a date?

- A. Seek immediate help and, if necessary, rush him/her to the emergency room.
- B. After gaining composure from a hard laugh,

give him/her lots of alcohol in an effort to numb the pain.

- C. Cry a lot.

4. How would you compliment your date's appearance when you first see him/her?

- A. "Wow ... you look absolutely amazing."
- B. "Wait. You are wearing ... that?"
- C. "You have something right there ... above your ... it's everywhere ... I think it's like mustard or something — gosh, that is really disgusting ... yeah, you got it."

5. Where would you take someone on your first date?

- A. Dinner and a movie.
- B. South Fulton.
- C. Wal-Mart.

6. What transportation would you use on your first date?

- A. A car.
- B. Our feet.
- C. I wouldn't need transportation if we used Webcam.

7. When taking your date on a pleasant picnic in the park, your picnic basket would contain ...

- A. Sandwiches, chips, fresh fruit, and a couple of sodas.
- B. Beer.
- C. A hunting knife with the intent to capture, kill and skin a squirrel for lunch.

8. What outfit would you wear to take your date to the movies?

A. A clean, casual outfit that would suit the events of the evening.

- B. A full-body costume of a main character in the film.
- C. Clothes are just an arbitrary convention of mankind to suppress the shame of nakedness. I'm not ashamed. People need to break from the system and just live naturally. Clothes are for people of the system. I'm going to leave society and face the elements of weather, solitude, and growing my own food, and I am going to do it all completely naked.

Here to Score! If you took this quiz, you failed.

the pacer

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News



Special guest, including UT Interim President Jan Simek officially open the Student Recreation Center Wednesday, Feb. 3, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. (Photo Credit/University Relations)

Student Recreation Center officially opens with ribbon-cutting ceremony

Spencer Taylor
Managing News Editor

After months of anticipation, the new Student Recreation Center was officially opened last Wednesday before a large assembly of students, faculty and various members of the community who helped make the new facility a reality.

Gina McClure, Director of Campus Recreation, opened the ceremony by welcoming the visitors to the campus and introduced the speakers of the morning.

Chancellor Tom Rakes took the podium after McClure and spoke on the process of bringing the Recreation Center to fruition.

"I would like to commend our student body and leadership that was involved when this was originally approved. These projects are not always approved, we take it for granted, we don't take it for

granted, and we're fortunate that students saw ahead," Rakes said.

"The project and the initiative turned out much better than most of us would have ever dreamed and our students deserve that."

UT Interim President Jan Simek spoke after Rakes and acknowledged the importance of a facility like the Student Recreation Center.

"Facilities like this are incredible for universities, and this is an incredibly important one. A university today has a responsibility, I believe, to the health and well being of its community- of its students, faculty and staff. They're especially important in areas like Martin where there are not a lot of facilities for people to go and exercise and get together and talk about good health," Simek said.

"The other reason (facilities like the new Rec Center) are important today is that

students pay attention to the environment in which they're going to go to school. If you're going to attract the very best and brightest students to your institutions, you have to have facilities for them that are going to give them the context in which they feel they're going to learn the best."

After the ribbon cutting ceremony, visitors were free to tour the new Recreation center and invited to partake in refreshments.

Visitors seemed impressed by the Recreation Center, and during the ceremony, students could be seen entering and leaving the weight room- clearly a sign that the facility was already being put to good use.

"It's awesome. This has been such a joy, watching the flow of students coming in and out and having them use the facility," said McClure.

At-risk students, faculty and staff are safer now

Trevor Smith
Asst. Sports Editor

UT-Martin recently installed twelve automatic external defibrillators in buildings across campus to help ensure the safety of students, faculty, and staff who are at risk for heart disease and to spread awareness about the dangers it presents.

At the forefront of the motion to install these defibrillators was Dr. Eric Walker, a professor of the Department of Agriculture here at UTM.

Dr. Walker stated he had a vested interest in seeing the AED units installed on campus after seeing how heart disease can affect people in everyday situations.

"I worked for the USDA for four years before I came to Martin. I had AED training and CPR training, so I knew a little about it all," he said.

"When I was there, I had an employee who started having chest pains and it turned out she was having a heart attack. Her daughter later worked for me and she also had a heart condition."

Over 495,000 Americans die every year from coronary heart disease, and that includes those who are treated with Bystander Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation.

"I think a lot of people have experienced it," said Dr. Walker.

"My father had open heart surgery, the two women that worked for me had heart conditions, and a student here came by one day who had a heart condition and was afraid."

But why the sudden need for defibrillators to be put on campus when CPR has long been the standard treatment for those who have gone into



There are 12 automatic defibrillators like the one above installed in buildings across the campus. This one is located in Humanities. (Photo/Tonya Joran)

cardiac arrest?

According to WebMD, the most common cause of death in people who suffer from a heart attack is a disturbance in the electrical rhythm of the heart called ventricular fibrillation. The treatment for this is the electrical shock to the heart that a defibrillator provides.

For every minute that a person in cardiac arrest goes untreated by a defibrillator, their chance of survival goes down by 10 percent. After three to five minutes, irreversible brain and tissue damage can begin to occur.

Only 1 out of every 10 people survive cardiac arrest when treated solely with CPR. However, those odds improve drastically when the person is treated with defibrillation. In those cases, close to 50 percent of people survive.

Dr. Walker and several other UTM faculty and staff members thought it necessary to provide such equipment in the event that such situations

arise. "If you read about CPR and then read about AED's, I think it's pretty obvious that we need them around," he said.

"We had AED's in the Elam Center and in the police cars on campus, and while it's true those are good places for them, I just felt like that wasn't enough."

Automatic external defibrillators are now so easy to use that most states, including Tennessee, protect operators of the machines in emergency situations under the Good Samaritan Laws.

"I do hope they aren't needed. I hope they all get dusty and nobody ever uses them," said Dr. Walker.

On UTM's campus, the units can be found in twelve buildings including Gooch Hall, the new campus Rec Center, and Brehm Hall. For more information on the locations of these AED units, contact Ted Council of Public Safety.

UTM student receives \$500 scholarship

The Tennessee Council of Cooperatives (TCC) recently awarded a \$500 scholarship to Austin Kendall of

Martin, TN. Austin is a student at the University of Tennessee, Martin and is the son of Tara and Dale Kendall. Austin is a junior at UTM working toward a Bachelors Degree in Agricultural Business. Austin is currently employed at Kendall

Hardwood Floors in Dresden, TN and is a member of the National Agribusiness Marketing Association, the Alpha Gamma Rho and the Undergraduate Alumni Council where he serves as President.

The TCC is a nonprofit organization established to promote the cooperative form of business through education and promotion of all types of cooperatives. TCC has two types of membership including "parent cooperatives" and "individual cooperatives."

The TCC is made up of member representatives from various cooperative

organizations in Tennessee. The total TCC membership is 60 members consisting of eight parent cooperatives and 52 individual cooperatives, including 19 electric cooperatives, 29 Tennessee Farmer Co-ops, five telephone cooperatives, three financial institutions, two milk cooperatives, one tobacco cooperative and the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation. Leadership for TCC is provided by 13 voting board members and six ex-officio members.

The TCC sponsors six college scholarships for agricultural students from each of Tennessee's four-year agriculture programs: Austin Peay State University; Middle Tennessee State University; Tennessee Technological University; the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; the University of Tennessee, Martin; and Tennessee State University.

The scholarship program, started in 1984, is an effort to acknowledge and aid the young



Dr. Jerry Gresham, Austin Kendall and Scott Vidrine

people most likely to return to communities served by rural cooperatives. TCC considers the scholarships an investment in the future of cooperatives and their leadership. Several scholarship recipients from the past currently serve in one of Tennessee's cooperatives or in one of the state's agriculture-related agencies which work with, support and help build cooperative businesses.

To be considered for the \$500 scholarship, the student must be a citizen of Tennessee, enrolled in a college of agriculture, maintain an overall grade point average of 2.5 out of a possible 4 points; and, if possible, be in his or her junior year of study.

The scholarship program, started in 1984, is an effort to acknowledge and aid the young

SAC holds first meeting of semester, plans several activities hoping to keep student entertained

Edward Finch
Pacer Writer

Nothing to do in Martin, well the Student Activities Council has an answer for you. The month of February has several activities that are sure to strike interest with all UTM students.

February 11th, the 9:09 this month features world renowned mentalist Craig Karges. Deemed the "Extraordinist" his act is said to include tables floating, mind readings, metal bending and your imagination is challenged because you won't believe your eyes! Karges has gained his success from performing in front of college audiences all across America. He has been named "Entertainer of The Year" by the National Association for Campus Activities, six times. "No matter where I perform, I try to make my audiences feel they are part of something

they have never experienced before and hopefully will never forget. My goal is to entertain my audiences through the creation of mystery and to open their minds to unlimited possibilities," said Karges. Plus, if you're still skeptical, according to Craig Karges web-site the "Extraordinist" offers \$100,000, payable to charity, if anyone can prove he uses stogoes or confederates from the audience to accomplish his demonstrations. So you be the judge and come experience the wonders of mystery for yourself.

Need to show that certain somebody how you feel about them this Valentines Day, but money is scarce. Well the SAC has a double-feature planned to rekindle any romance. Sunday Feb 14th, at 6 p.m. in the Watkins Theatre the double feature includes a showing of "The Notebook" and "The Wedding Singer". Save money this Valentines

Day and come enjoy these popular date movies, free to all UTM students.

UT Martin Film Festival is set to take place on March 3rd in Watkins Theatre. The festival hosts a lineup of movies written, produced, and filmed by UTM students. For preview dates, rules, and regulations please contact Thomas Engar at theogrn@utmartin.edu.

So whether you are looking for a good date idea or simply want to be amazed this month, the SAC has something for you. For information on upcoming events or for applications to become a committee member visit www.utm.edu/organizations/sac. The SAC welcomes any suggestions and encourages UTM students to get involved by visiting their office located on the second floor in the UC or by emailing Karysten Reynolds at karystern@utm.edu.

UTM student/Bartlett officer recalls rescue, miracle child

David A. Jones, a UTM senior and Bartlett Police detective, recently helped rescue a boy from an icy pond in Bartlett.

Jones will graduate in May with a bachelor's degree in University Studies, concentrating on criminal and social behavior. WHBQ-TV, FOX 13, in Memphis recently ran a special report on Jones' and the rest of the rescue team's efforts to save 10-year-old Reese Wagner. Following are excerpts from the WHBQ story.

"It's only been a few days since Reese Wagner returned from a two-week hospital stay into the arms of his family. It

was a reunion that wouldn't have happened if Bartlett police and firefighters hadn't quickly reacted to rescue Reese after he'd fallen through an icy pond."

FOX13 reporter Les Smith recently talked to members of the rescue team. The rescue began "with a frantic 911 emergency dispatch call taken by operator Debbie Watson. ...

What was the feeling of rescuers at the scene knowing a little boy was involved?

Bartlett Police Detective David Jones replied, "It's one of those things you can't ... You couldn't have prepared for what we were fixin' to be a part of."

Within minutes of reaching the pond and with the help of members of a firefighting recruiting class adding to the needed manpower, a plan of rescue was set in motion.

Firefighter/paramedic Brad Anderson said, "At that point, you're concentrating on what you had to do. Everybody knew there were a lot of people out here and I saw the police uncover the boat and getting it down to the water."

With four people in a steadily sinking boat (grabbed from the shore) and lines to the craft being securely nailed from the shore, the 6'5" Jones needed all of his height to

begin the most important fishing expedition of his life. A frustrated Jones dragged the spiked fire pole for unrewarded minutes through branches and limbs that dotted the pond's bottom.

Jones said, "My boots were full of water and of course my hands had been down in the water for an extended period of time because the pole was short. So, the pond ended up being 9 1/2 feet to 10 feet. The pole I believe was about eight feet long. All the time, all we were thinking about was trying to save Reese. The first thing I saw was his camouflage jacket. And then I saw his face looking

up at me and I yelled that I had him."

Pulled back to shore by the ropes connected to the boat, all operations keyed on addressing the survival needs of the child who'd been in the frozen water for over 20 minutes.

As Reese, in critical condition, was raced to a waiting team at LeBonheur Children's Hospital, the gravity of what had transpired began to set in on his cold and exhausted rescuers.

Jones said, "The first thing I did was went to my car and prayed."

"The Facebook pages. Fifteen thousand people all praying for

one outcome and that's what we got," Anderson said.

Jones, the first to reach Reese, was rewarded with a hug when the recovering youngster made his round of in-person thank you's after his triumphant release from LeBonheur.

Jones said, "I was standing out in the lobby and he jumped up in my arms and you know. It was just a ... It was a pretty touching moment. Probably any man would break down. And I did."

To read the entire story, go to: www.myfoxmemphis.com/dpp/news/local/good_news/012210-bartlett-boy-releases-miracle-recovery

News



Another snow day

A couple of brave UTM souls wander around the quad after five to seven inches of snow fell Monday, Feb. 8, and Tuesday, Feb. 9. For the second time in two weeks, the university closed its offices and canceled classes because of the weather. (Pacer Photos / Randy Gavin)

Federal Reserve officer talks about U.S. finances

Regina Emery
Asst. Life Editor

Perhaps the most timely of all the speakers in this year's Academic Speaker Series, Julie Stackhouse spoke to UTM students last week about the nation's financial stability in a presentation titled "From Crisis to Recovery: The Reshaping of the Financial and Regulatory System."

Stackhouse is a Senior Vice President and Managing Officer of Banking Supervision and Discount Window Lending at the Federal Reserve Bank in St. Louis.

As the introduction of her presentation Thursday night, Stackhouse emphasized the need for a basic understanding of our economic past to better plan for our future.

"We must first be students of history," Stackhouse said. "Mistakes will be made, yes. But you need to know them and understand the implications of past mistakes to plan for any recovery."

After breaking down the several factors that created the "perfect storm", such as over-confidence and shady mortgage brokers, Stackhouse presented simple, sensible statistics to help students better grasp what she was talking about.

For example, in defense of the highly criticized Troubled Asset Relief Program, she pointed out that the \$204.9 billion government dollars lent out to banks and other institutions had been repaid back greatly, leaving a deficit of only \$83 billion. Indeed, that debt is still great, but much smaller than what anyone had expected so quickly.

"The problem was that be-



Academic speaker Julie Stackhouse talks about the U.S. financial situation to a UTM audience Feb. 4. (Pacer Photos / Jeremy Jones)

fore there was always this sense that they [Fannie Mae and AIG] were too big to fail. And yet...we bailed them out. No one ever imagined that this could happen, that the financial market could become this weak," Stackhouse said.

But in general, Stackhouse showed faith in the economy. She predicts that so long as people are smart with their spending, the economy will bounce back. As she points out, the "Great Recession" as it is being called is nowhere as comparable to the Great Depression as people once thought.

In fact, though unemployment may be high, it is nowhere near the levels it reached in the 1930's and it does not factor in "under-employment". Stackhouse also showed statistics proving that throughout all this economic turmoil of the past few years, we still have not suffered any inflation—as

they did in the Great Depression. This gives major hope to our financial recovery plan.

"In the last quarter of 2009, the economy grew substantially—5.7%. We know that the growth is there, although we still don't know just when we will see full recovery" she said.

The Academic Speaker series is sponsored by the Honors Program and Julie Stackhouse's appearance was also co-sponsored by the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking and the Department of Accounting, Finance, Economics, and Political Science.

The next speaker in the series will be UTM's own Associate Professor of Psychology Michelle Marks Merwin, who will be speaking on "Lincoln's Destiny and Will: The Writings of Rollo May Visible in the Life of the Great Emancipator" on Thursday, March 4.

Quake

From Cover

Matthew Huber, a UTM Geology alum and LSU graduate, agreed.

"There is not currently a method of predicting when an earthquake will happen, but we can be certain that another major earthquake will happen in the New Madrid system," Huber said.

Because the occurrence of a major earthquake in the New Madrid zone cannot be predicted, UTM geologists and geology students said they do believe a major earthquake should be expected sometime in the next 50 years or so.

However, other UTM students did not seem too worried about a massive quake.

When asked, Joel Sissman,

a freshman undeclared major, Brandon Peeler, a sophomore Communications major, and Ronald Spencer, a sophomore Communications major, each expressed little concern over the 10 percent possibility of a major earthquake in the next 50 years.

Dunagan said people should still take measures to prepare for such an event.

"You can't stop the earthquake, but what you can do is stop all the problems that can result from the earthquake such as the utility lines breaking, getting your natural gas or propane turned off. Simply having earthquake insurance and understanding the deductible," he said.

"Understanding that and preparing for that is probably one of the best things you can do. Securing heavy furniture in your home or apartment becomes important. The last thing you want to do is survive the earthquake but get badly injured by your chest of drawers crushing all your ribs or something like that."

Huber said poor construction is what causes loss of life, not earthquakes. He said the probability of a major earthquake is high and, if an earthquake hits and buildings are not structurally secure, then similar devastation to what has happened in Haiti will be seen in the United States.

Protest

From Cover

"To be honest, I think it shows a few things. First I believe it shows that the Tea Party movement isn't as strong as Fox News and other conservatively spinned news portrays it to be. I also feel that both Blackburn and Bachmann, while strong supporters, had to find a way or reason to back out of it with the election season getting under way," Mummert said.

Several sponsors also pulled out of the convention over

concerns of the for-profit status of the convention. The Associated Press reported that The American Liberty Alliance, The National Precinct Alliance and the Tea Party Express withdrew their support from the convention.

"The main reason that most of them backed out was because of the outrageous price to attend. They called out the husband-and-wife team, Judson and Sherry Phillips of Franklin, Tenn., on the price,

in which they gave no answers or reasons as to why it was so pricey. The only thing that was 'unofficially' said was that Fox News contributor Sarah Palin was being paid \$100,000 to be the keynote speaker at the event and that they were to eat lobster for dinner.

"At least their sponsors had a backbone to stand up for the majority of their supporters, but not those who were actually putting the event on," Mummert said.



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One on One

This week
Brent Harris interviews
seven time OVC
Newcomer of the Week,
Alicia Weatherly.
Catch One on One
Friday at 10 am
and noon.

SGA Round-Up

this
week
**RACHEL
STEPHENS**

Todd Hill interviews SGA
Senator for the College of
Humanities and Fine Arts
Rachel Stephens in this
week's edition of SGA
Round-Up. Tune in this
Monday at 9 am or noon to
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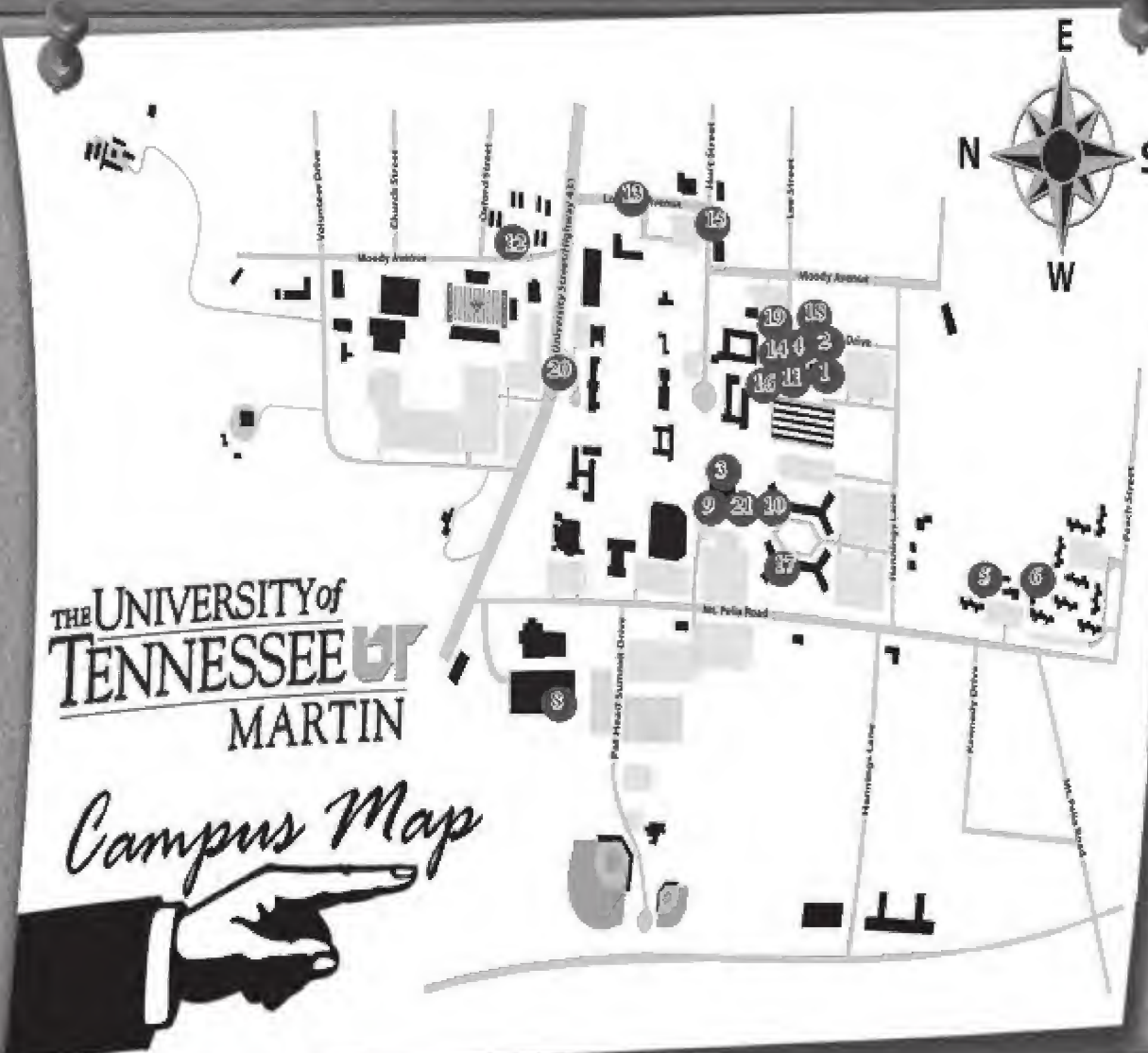


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THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE MARTIN

Campus Map



POLICE REPORT

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>1 1-29-10 at 1:59 am-Univ Village "F" Unit-Report of flooding from one of the apartment bathrooms. Housing Dept. was notified and took care of the situation.</p> <p>2 Fire Call-1-29-10 at 7:47 am-Univ Village "G" Unit-Report that the smoke alarm was sounding. Officers responded and determined it to be caused by cooking food. MFD notified.</p> <p>3 1-29-10 at 3:36 pm-Univ Center-Subject reported the theft of cell phone. Investigation continues.</p> <p>4 1-29-10 at 4:00 pm-Univ Village "F" Unit-Complainant reported telephone harassment from past friends. Subjects were contacted and advised to stop calling the victim.</p> <p>5 1-29-10 at 10:25 pm-Univ Courts-Traffic accident involving one vehicle. The driver was issued a citation for no proof of insurance.</p> <p>6 1-29-10 at 11:37 pm-Univ Courts-Report of a subject who was having difficulty breathing. Officers and EMS responded and transported the subject to the hospital.</p> <p>7 1-30-10 at 12:40 am-Baker Road-Officers assisted MPD with a vehicle burglary investigation.</p> | <p>8 1-30-10 at 6:43 pm-Elam Center-Report of the theft of property from a vending machine-Investigation continues.</p> <p>9 1-30-10 at 8:25 pm-Univ Center-Report of the theft of money from a wallet. Investigation continues.</p> <p>10 1-30-10 at 10:13 pm-Lat 9 (McCord Hall)-Traffic accident involving two vehicles. Report on file.</p> <p>11 1-31-10 at 1:23 am-Univ Village "G" Unit-Report that some residents were concerned for the safety of one of their roommates. A welfare check was conducted on the involved subject and all was well.</p> <p>12 1-31-10 at 9:52 pm-Grove Apartments-Report of the fraudulent use of a credit card. Mr. Joshua Jarboe from Gracey KY. was arrested for this offense. (Cen Sessions Court)</p> <p>13 2-3-10 at 12:44 am-Oxford Street-Officers assisted MPD with the report of a domestic dispute.</p> <p>14 2-3-10 at 9:54 am-Univ Village "G" Unit-Report that property of a subject who has left the university was still in the room. The property was inventoried and stored. The subject was contacted and referred to Student Affairs.</p> | <p>15 2-3-10 at 10:10 am-Lurt Street-Subject issued a citation for an expired license plate (City Court) and no proof of insurance (Cen Sessions Court).</p> <p>16 2-3-10 at 2:45 pm-Browning Hall-Report of a subject that maybe living on campus and is not a student. The subject has been identified and will be contacted as soon as possible.</p> <p>17 2-3-10 at 1:23 pm-Univ Courts "F" Unit-Report report that a subject has possibly overdosed on some medicine. Officers and EMS responded and transported the subject to the hospital.</p> <p>18 Fire Call-2-4-10 at 2:47 am-Univ Village "F" Unit-Report that a smoke alarm was sounding. Officers responded and determined it to be caused by cooking food. MFD was notified.</p> <p>19 Fire Call-2-4-10 at 3:08 pm-Univ Village "F" Unit-Report that the fire alarm was sounding. Officers and MFD responded and found one of the pull alarms had been activated. Investigation continues.</p> <p>20 2-4-10 at 8:02 am-Univ Street-Subject issued a citation for a crosswalk violation. (City Court).</p> <p>21 2-4-10 at 12:21 pm-Univ Center-Report of a subject who was having a seizure. Officers and EMS responded and treated the subject at the scene.</p> |
|--|---|---|

Campus Bulletin Board

Times Talk

Times Talk Wednesday at noon in the Skyhawk Cafeteria, Room 125. Richard Garlitz, assistant professor of History, will be moderating the topic "Constitutional Questions of Mandatory Health Insurance."

Lunch Around the World

Sodexo prepares a special dish each week from various cultures around the world, every Wednesday from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Cafeteria

Hallway. This week's country cuisine is from New Zealand.

PSEPP

The Personal Safety Empowerment Program Project (PSEPP) invites you to visit their Web site. PSEPP provides advocacy and an entry portal for students who have been victims of sexual assault or stalking.

9:09 Comedy Series

The SAC 909 Comedy Series presents Craig Kardas, Thursday 9:09-10:09 p.m. in the Watkins Auditorium.

Concert Series

The Department of Music presents Greg Luscombe Trombone Recital Monday, Feb. 15, at 8 p.m. in the Watkins Auditorium.

Tennessee Tractor Field Day

The Tennessee Tractor Field Day Tuesday, Feb. 16, 9-10 a.m. at the Ag Pavilion.

Meetings with Mark

State Rep. Mark Maddox will hold a round of "Meetings with Mark" on Saturday, Feb. 13, at the C.E. Weldon Library from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m.

Life

pacer_features@utmb.edu

Faculty profile: Dan McDonough

History professor talks about importance of history, loyalty to Chicago Bears

Regina Emery
Asst. Life Editor

The first thing we talked about was literally the weather. Obviously, the native Chicaguan ("through and through") isn't too very fond of heat. Despite the snowing outside, Dr. McDonough's office window is left open, bringing in a chilly breeze to his secluded office in the McCombs Center.

"I don't think that human nature has changed very much over the last two thousand years," says Dr. Daniel McDonough, professor of History and the current director of the UTM Honors Program. As he settles in his seat, he explains further: "Sure, times have changed and technology has changed. But the basic nature of human beings has not. The tactics and strategies of war have become more advanced, but the reasons for fighting have not."

Processing the profoundness of this statement, I try to think

about what it is that keeps him so interested in a subject that, essentially, doesn't change.

If you continue to look around his office, you notice a few things—the colonial Boston maps, portraits of Washington and Lincoln, and of course souvenirs most amusing of course are the dolls, or action figures. A former student gave him some Revolutionary War figures as a gesture of thanks some years back. After years of entertaining his young son Daniel when he was visiting his father's office, they now lie on a table scattered amongst some University Scholars paperwork.

But you're more likely to gain a deeper understanding of him just by engaging in a conversation. Only then can you hear the stories about meeting Kevin Costner or being chased down a street by Mr. T. As he'll tell you, Chicago life is much different.

In regards to his teaching, McDonough is a self-proclaimed Revolutionary buff,

with an expertise primarily in American History from 1750 to 1800 and emphasis upon the American Revolution. He teaches courses in Colonial, Revolutionary, and Early National United States, as well as British History and Military History. As Director for the Honors Program, topics classes such as Hollywood History film class also fall upon his shoulders. Thus, the students he teaches for the most part already have an interest in history.

"I don't understand how anyone can truly dislike history. Sometimes I hear that and I think that they must have just had a bad experience with it or a teacher who wasn't motivating enough. But you can't hate history—everything is everything. Your family is your history," McDonough said.

After graduating high school, Dr. McDonough started college as a Business major at the University of Illinois, where he would eventually

get his Bachelor's, Master's and Doctorate degrees. After changing his major several times, he finally settled on one he really liked—history. But he never dreamed of being a history professor. As a matter of fact, he still didn't quite know what he wanted to do until a professor at Illinois asked him to give teaching a shot.

And from there, well, the rest is history. After finding that he loved teaching college students, he taught a year at MTSU before settling down in 1992 to a rural West Tennessee college town that he'd previously never even heard of.

"I think that's why that as an advisor, I prefer to advise the undeclared students. Because I've been there," says McDonough. "I think it's great to meet an eighteen-year-old who knows what they want to do for the rest of their life. Great, but also very rare. For most people, 'the rest of your life' is a big decision. And I think that's why these years in

college are so important."

In addition to being a place to find one's calling, college is supposed to be a sacred place of scholarship. It's a time for research and studying. And while you find yourself studying sometime in the Paul Meek library, you may stumble upon one of Dr. McDonough's own works.

As part of his dissertation, Dr. McDonough studied the lives of two South Carolina men and what developed was book, *Christopher Gadsden and Henry Laurens: The Parallel Lives of Two American Patriots*, published in 2000. Later, he co-edited a book, *Politics and Culture of the Civil War Era: Essays in Honor of Robert W. Johannsen*, with his longtime friend Kenneth Noe.

McDonough resides locally with his wife Alesia, whom he met during his temporary job at MTSU. Their son, "Little Daniel" was born in 1997, the same year that he became Assistant Director of the

Honors Program under Dr. Zachry. Five years ago he was named the new Director, and has since been working hands-on with students and faculty to maintain the integrity and discipline of the Honors Program.

And finally, a topic I couldn't help avoid. So who does a diehard Bears fan rally for during this year's Super Bowl? Well, if you're like Dr. McDonough, you changed your mind at about the second quarter and start betting on the Saints.

As he writes on his profile, "I love sports, both to watch and to participate in, though age is reducing my ability to do much more than watch. I love most of the Chicago teams, but not the Cubs! In baseball, I'm a big fan of the St. Louis Cardinals. Don't ask, it's a long story how that happened. But I live and die with the Chicago Bears."

'Tiptons' showcases immense musical talent, ability for UTM



Trevor Smith
Asst. Sports Editor

I think instead of jumping into my review outright, I'll take a moment to step up on my soapbox.

I'd like to commend the Department of Music here at UTM for putting together a concert series every semester for students like me to enjoy. I also implore students who might not be aware of those concerts, or who might not think it's something they'd enjoy, to give it a shot the next time one comes around. I've never attended one I didn't at least partially enjoy, and it never hurts to have some culture in your life.

Now, I can begin telling you about the delightful ladies of The Tiptons and their impressive performance last Tuesday night.

Based out of Seattle, Washington, the group features Amy Denio on alto saxophone, Jessica Laurie on alto and tenor saxophone, Sue Orfield on tenor saxophone, Tina Richardson on baritone

saxophone, and Lee Fresari on drums. All five members of the group are incredible musicians. Obviously, I'm no expert on what makes a musician great, but I'm no slouch either.

I've seen my fair share of performance concerts to know that those women have meticulously developed their craft. I now have a new respect for how a saxophone can be played and even more so for those with the ability to play it.

That being said, I just can't bring myself to say I loved their performance.

It isn't a slight to them or what they do on stage. They were energetic, attempted to get the crowd involved, and were certainly musically sound. I thought for a group billed as a saxophone quartet, they did a wonderful job incorporating percussion and voice into their performance. What it boils down to is I'm simply more of a strings man.

It isn't just saxophones, it's most brass instruments. Not that I hate them outright, but I feel they're better used in orchestral settings where they

aren't always carrying the load, so to speak. The ladies of The Tiptons obviously feel differently, and when you play a saxophone as well as they all do, it's hard to argue against them.

I can say you won't find a more affable group of musicians than The Tiptons. Not only did they seem truly enthused to be performing for the audience here at UTM, but they also included a large group of our own music majors in their performance by allowing them to join in on stage.

Like I said before, the performance aspect of the concert was great. If you get a chance to see this group, absolutely do it. Their talent will leave you in awe, and that's coming from somebody who didn't love their music.

The Tiptons music is available for download from iTunes and for sale on Amazon and most other big-name sites. If you'd like to give them a listen, they're on Myspace at www.myspace.com/tiptons.

Movie review: 'Dear John'

Regina Emery
Asst. Life Editor

Before you begin reading this article, I feel that I must issue a disclaimer: I did not really enjoy *The Notebook*. That being said, you may continue to read on (either because you agree with me or at least have an open mind) or cast aside this article in a fit of blubbergasted rage.

Alas, this review is about the film *Dear John*, and not *The Notebook*. I just felt that because SO many people have been comparing the two, I could at least spare you some reading time by acknowledging up front that you may not like my opinion of the film.

Without giving anything away, *Dear John* is a screenplay adaptation of a novel by the same name. Basically, it is a romantic drama about Special Forces soldier John and his relationship with conservative college student Savannah that continues through letters during his deployment in the

War on Terror.

First and foremost, I believe the entire film industry owes Channing Tatum (G.I. Joe, Step-Up) an apology. In the weeks leading up to the film's release, critics and comedians alike made him the butt of their jokes. I admit that even I was a skeptic, pegging him a pretty boy incapable of handling the role of John. But in this film, he proves us wrong. Tatum was amazing. I am by no means a crier—but while watching his performance, I came pretty close.

The downside to Tatum's casting, however, was his chemistry with co-star Amanda Seyfried (*Mamma Mia*, *Jennifer's Body*). Had the film been simply about a quirky, young love then it would have been perfect. Their almost-awkwardness together was completely believable and resembled a real couple. But their relationship was supposed to be more than that—it's supposed to be an enduring love that lasts for years. And as you'll see later in the film, their

chemistry falls flat.

Nonetheless, I really enjoyed the film. Sure, some of the dialogue got corny. And yeah, there was a huge shocker that literally made me angry—and even angrier at the very end of the movie. But for the most part it was something I'd recommend, especially to a guy who is looking for a St. Valentine's Day date night movie. Trust me, most of the film is from John's perspective and contains enough war and "non-nutty stuff" to keep testosterone levels stable.

Beyond John and Savannah's relationship, there is also the relationship with his father. An avid coin collector, we learn more about each of them through their interactions with him. His character gains sympathy (without being pathetic) and probably has a greater impact on viewers than Savannah does.

Something else I didn't expect was to laugh as much as I did. Be them hearty laughs and just some half-hearted chuckles, you'll definitely have a smile on your face for the first third of the movie. And if you're prone to water-works, you'll be crying intermittently throughout the last two thirds.

I think another reason that this film is good is because of how relatable it is. For example, their relationship is completely plausible. No extreme circumstances bring them together, and no freak vampire-related drama attempts to break them apart.

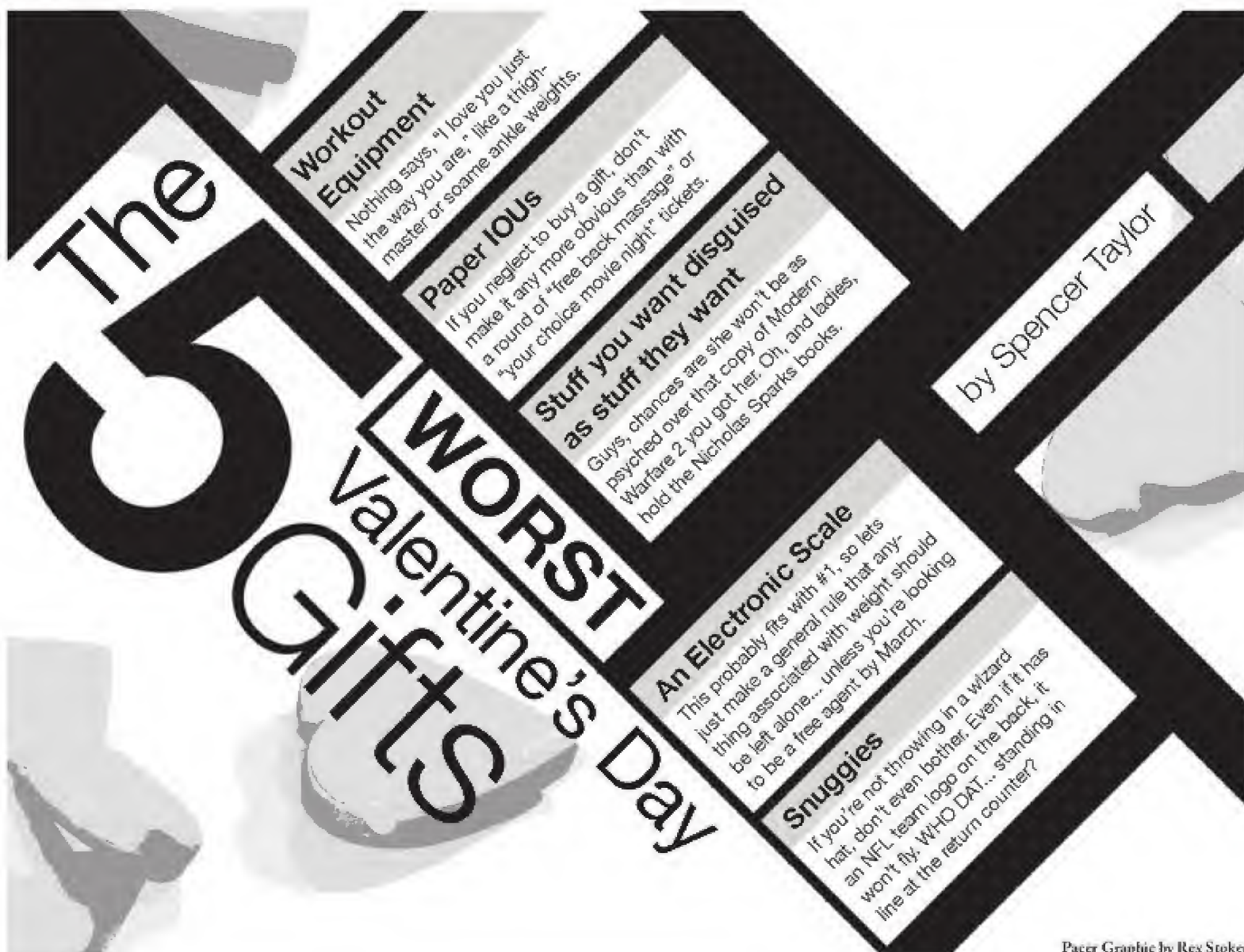
Finally, I liked the film's treatment of September 11th. It affected all our lives in all sorts of ways. But *Dear John* is the first movie I have seen to show how that event has affected our relationships with soldiers as well. Perhaps I feel this way because I am currently in a long-distance relationship with an Airman, but it's definitely nice to have a movie convey what it's really like. You actually believe their love, believe their emotions. But you won't believe the twist (unless of course you read the book).

So, rent? Yes. Buy? I plan to.

channing tatum

amanda seyfried





Pacer Graphic by Rex Stoker

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Sports

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Football inks 23 new recruits

Athletic Communications

Jason Simpson, the head football coach at The University of Tennessee at Martin and his staff received signed national letters of intent from 23 players today.

Among the 23 players, 11 are from Tennessee and three each are from Missouri, Mississippi, Ohio and Kentucky.

"Our number one goal was depth on the offensive line," said Simpson, who enters his fifth season as the Skyhawks' head coach. "We also needed defensive backs and we added quality players at the quarterback and running back positions."

Simpson said many of the UT Martin signees had several offers to choose from. "We had to let the recruiting process take its course. We had to be patient and after the guys took other visits we were fortunate they chose to be student-athletes at UT Martin and not just a football player," Simpson said.

"Our campus and our community played a big part in their decision to choose UT Martin."

Simpson and his staff also had 10 mid-year players sign, including Kevin Whaley, a running back who transferred from the University of Minnesota.

Whaley was Minnesota's second-leading rusher as a redshirt freshman this past season. He had 88 carries for 367 yards and averaged 4.2 yards per carry. Whaley prep'd at Salem High School in Virginia Beach, Va., where he rushed for 6,301 yards and scored 85 touchdowns. He was twice named the All-Tidewater Player of the Year.

Simpson names new offensive coordinator

Athletic Communications

Jason Simpson, the fourth-year head football coach at The University of Tennessee at Martin has named Mac Bryan the Skyhawks new offensive coordinator and offensive line coach.

Bryan comes to UTM from Enka High School in North Carolina where he served as head coach for the past season. He led the Jets to their best season since 2002.

Bryan brings 19 years of collegiate coaching experience to UTM with him. His last college coaching job was as the head football coach at Pikeville (Kentucky) College. He spent three seasons as the head coach.

"I could not pass up an opportunity to add someone like Mac to our staff," Simpson said.

"He brings a wealth of knowledge and his vast experience to our staff. Anytime you add someone like Mac Bryan to your staff you are going to see the dividends paid."

Bryan also spent three seasons as the offensive line coach at Southern Miss and seven years at Lees McRae College.

"Mac's maturity level will be a great asset to our offensive linemen," Simpson said.

Skyhawks streaking

Trevor Ruskowski/University Relations



Trevor Ruskowski/University Relations



Women's basketball now rolling past opponents; winners of three straight

Josh Weiss
Sports Editor

The 2009-10 Skyhawk women's basketball team has done something that no women's basketball team has done at UTM since 2006-07.

They have won three straight games. This may not seem like much of a feat, but considering that the team has only won a total of 14, including seven this season, in the past three seasons, it is remarkable.

UTM has notched wins over conference opponents Murray State, Austin Peay and Tennessee State and shows no signs of slowing down.

The women have been playing their best basketball of the season as of late, and it has shown, especially on the offensive end.

The Skyhawks have shot nearly 49 percent from the floor, including 25-47 (53 percent) from beyond the arc, and making almost 81 percent of their 31 free throw attempts a game over the three

game homestand.

This has translated into points and lots of them for UTM.

The Skyhawks have scored 216 total points in the three-game stretch, the highest three-game point total since the week of Dec. 15, 2002, in which the Skyhawks recorded 227 points but went 0-3 on the week.

The Skyhawks also are showing great discipline on the defensive end.

Their stifling matchup zone has given opposing teams fits largely as everything is finally coming together for UTM.

The women have held their opponents to just 37 percent shooting during the stint.

Players are stepping up, and some are having huge games.

Take, for example, freshman Cali Cupples.

The sharp-shooting guard from Newbern, Tenn., dropped 22 points, including 6-6 from three, in the Jan. 30 outing against Murray State.

Junior Alecia Weatherly, who has been the main spark for this team all season long, has also put up a string of impressive performances for UTM.

Weatherly is averaging just under 20 points and seven rebounds a game during the Skyhawks winning streak and continues to rack up OVC honors, having been named OVC Newcomer of the Week a school-record seven times this season.

Most notable, though, is freshman Lafrica Ward, who has been huge for the Skyhawks as of late.

Ward has netted 66 points on a blistering 65 percent shooting in her past three outings, and, as if that wasn't enough, she has snagged over 7.5 boards a game during the streak.

She was also named OVC Player of the Week for her superb play.

The Skyhawks will look to turn three into four this Thursday, Feb. 11, against Jacksonville State. Tipoff is scheduled for 5:15 p.m. in the Skyhawk Arena.

Soccer coach says goodbye to UTM



Roberts makes switch after most successful season in school history

Josh Weiss
Sports Editor

UTM head soccer coach, Craig Roberts, will be saying goodbye to Tennessee.

"The Skyhawks' four-year head coach has been named the fourth head coach in Ball State soccer history."

"We are excited to have Craig Roberts join our staff at Ball State University," said Ball State Athletic Director Tom Collins.

"He comes from a diverse background and brings a wealth of coaching experience as both a head coach and an assistant coach. We believe he has everything necessary to have success in the Mid-American Conference. We look forward to welcoming him to the Ball State family."

Roberts, a native of Kidderminster, England, is by far the most successful coach in UTM soccer history.

Over the past three seasons, Roberts has led UTM to 29 wins, a number that matches the total number of wins in the program's seven prior years, and last season the program's first ever Ohio Valley Conference regular season championship.

He also holds the top three marks for wins in a season, including UTM's first and second ever 10-win seasons in 2007 and 2008.

"I would like to thank Tom Collins and his administrative staff for this opportunity," said Roberts.

Roberts' overall record at UTM was 34-27-12, including a 19-3-1 mark over the past three seasons at home.

"Ball State is committed to developing first class student-athletes and I'm honored to be part of such an outstanding institution," said Roberts.

"Although I leave behind a set of special young individuals at UTM who will always be important to me, I look forward to the new challenges and experiences ahead."

A sit-down with basketball's Alecia Weatherly

Trevor Smith
Assistant Sports Editor

In a year that has arguably not been one of the best, the UTM Skyhawk women's basketball team does have reason to be excited for the near future.

Even as the men's team is slipping from its lofty status from a year ago, the women's team is quietly improving. Their 5-7 record and sixth-place spot in the OVC standings are already far and away above last year's results, and junior forward Alecia Weatherly is a big reason why.

The now seven-time OVC Newcomer of the Week can't even recall the first time she took up a basketball and began playing the game.

"I had two older sisters that played, so I was always around it," Weatherly said.

Weatherly and her two siblings played their high school basketball at Perry County High School where she and the Lady Vikings to a district title in 2004, and on to the regional tournament where they finished as the runner-up.

That same year, her team advanced deep into the Tennessee State Tournament

before falling in the final four. In 2006, she was honored with Tennessee's top accolade for the sport when she was named Class A Miss Basketball.

In college, she originally attended Trevecca Nazarene University and played basketball there for her first semester before transferring to Belmont University to pursue a degree in nursing. She spent two years at Belmont before the opportunity to play again came in the form of a phone call.

The phone call was about a regime change at UTM and the need here for athletes to come and play under Coach Kevin McMillan, with whom Weatherly was familiar.

"I played AAU basketball

from my sixth grade year up until my last year I could. I played in Lawrence County, Murfreesboro, and for the West Tennessee Wings for Coach McMillan," she said.

"My high school coach actually called me and told me about Coach McMillan getting the job. He then called me and asked me if I wanted to play at UTM."

And so she came. Deciding she had only two more years of eligibility left and time after that to return to her nursing degree, Weatherly couldn't pass up the opportunity to come play at UTM.

"Whenever I first decided to come up here, I knew nothing about the team. I only knew they didn't have enough players when Coach McMillan first got the job," Weatherly said.

What she quickly picked up on was that the program she was joining had suffered through a highly disappointing season the year before and wasn't known for being a strong contender for the OVC crown.

Nevertheless, Weatherly and the rest of the Skyhawks have played hard this season, and she says she can tell they're improving.

"The beginning of the year started a little rough, but I feel like a lot of our players are maturing every game," she said. "As a team, I think we're playing better together than we were then."

That does seem to be the case. The team is on a three-game winning streak, and they scored a season-high 79 points against Austin Peay in a win on Feb. 4. In that game, Weatherly led all scorers with a career-high 25 points.

For someone who was out of basketball for two years, she seems to have found her rhythm easily enough.

"Transitioning back to being a student athlete after the two years I had off has just been really enjoyable because it's what I've been used to my entire life," Weatherly said.

And once basketball is over, will she return to nursing?

"I thought I was finished with basketball forever, but now that I'm back into it, I can see something happening there. Not playing, but coaching or something like that."

In the meantime, you can count on seeing Alecia Weatherly on the court and working hard to win with the Skyhawks.